The Joy of the Promise – it’s new every day

As we walked towards Christmas in this space I reminded you of the joy of the promise of Jesus’ coming. We watched how Joseph responded to the promise and as we stand at the edge of the new year, once more we gaze to the biblical record of the promise fulfilled in Jesus.

Matthew 1:24 states: "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him..." Joseph, though living in a different context, received the same promise and overwhelming joy in Jesus that we do. Joseph, like all of us, are part of the Christmas people who are promised a Jesus who will save us from our sins, and Immanuel “God with us” who will never leave.

Matthew portrays Joseph as the ideal believer, i.e. he did exactly as God desires a believer to do. With the Christmas season now giving way to a new year, what message are we to glean from his example? Simply, Joseph is most well-known for receiving the promises of God with joy and living as God commanded him to live. That brings me to us.

I’m not a huge one for resolutions, because they generally are so trivial and easily walked away from. So, rather than a resolution, I put before you the opportunity as 2018 comes to do a New Year’s inventory that is promised, 2018 will be a year in your life to remember!

Will I, with the faith of Jesus, do as God commands? Every day? If you do, do I plan to be in service? Who and what is my life all about? God’s people or just my own people or myself? Will I serve God through serving his people in any way this year, or will I keep all my gifts, talents and time to myself?

How are you doing in your prayer life? Are you praying? Are you praying for God’s will in the advancement of his church locally and easily walked away from. So, rather than a resolution, I put before you the opportunity as 2018 comes to do a New Year’s inventory that is promised, 2018 will be a year in your life to remember!

Will I, with the faith of Jesus, do as God commands? Every day? If you do, is it to advance God’s work of healing the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry? Am I giving to grow God’s kingdom through the church? Am I giving my maximum? Minimum? Less? Am I giving of what I have been given to God?

How are you doing in your ministry of presence? Are you present for God? Where is what you have been given being used? Am I giving what I have to advance God’s work of healing the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry? Am I giving to grow God’s kingdom through the church? Am I giving my maximum? Minimum? Less? Am I giving of what I have been given to God?

Do I plan to be in service? Who and what is my life all about? God’s people or just my own people or myself? Will I serve God through serving his people in any way this year, or will I keep all my gifts, talents and time to myself?

Where is what you have been given being used? Am I giving what I have to advance God’s work of healing the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry? Am I giving to grow God’s kingdom through the church? Am I giving my maximum? Minimum? Less? Am I giving of what I have been given to God?

Wherever I am and whatever I am doing as a representative of His in every situation where I am present?

At worship? At home? For others? Am I, for God’s sake, working to enjoy life, situation and salvation? Am I telling anyone in any way my witness of Jesus in my life?

What is your witness? Is your very living a witness to the joy of God? When folks look at you do they see a window to God or a doorway to sarcasm, skepticism and pessimism? Do people see that I LOVE God? Am I witnessing to all the great things God has done? Am I seen as grateful for my life, situation and salvation? Am I telling anyone in any way my witness of Jesus in my life?

Will I, with the faith of Jesus, do as God commands? Every day? If you do, this is promised, 2018 will be a year in your life to remember!

Happy New Year
Pastor Mike
First United Methodist Church - Marion, Iowa

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Of Church Council, Committees and Work Areas

January 1 to December 31, 2018

(*) denotes term year...most offices have three-year terms

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairperson of Church Council: Ryan Colerick (19)
Senior Pastor: Ryan Colerick (19)
Director of Youth & Connectional Mission: Kelsee Del Reus
Director of Worship & Metro Mission: Simon Campbell
Foundation Secretary: John Terry
Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson: Chris Hauser (18)
Endowment Foundation Chairperson: Leh Rodenberg (18)
Finance Committee Chairperson: Alex Musman (18)
Church Treasurer: Cara Maatson (20)
Director of Music: Peggy Rosenkranz
United Methodist Women’s President: Debbie Liscum
United Methodist Men’s President: Walter Kelly
Church Historian: Mark Morgan
Daucal Minster: Myrna Carter
Boy Scout Institutional Representative: Diane Bys (18)
Director of Pastoral Care: Vicki Standley
Director of Adult Education & Discipleship: Jen Digmann
Director of Children’s Education & Discipleship: Luann Byerly
Marion Senior Living Board Representative: Ken Stanford
Marion Food Pantry Representative: Gary Frederick
Marion Jailer Representative: Nicole Riley

COMMITTEES

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Chairperson - Alex Musman

Class of 2018: Alex Musman
Class of 2019: Jean Hammell
Class of 2020: Dan Morgan
Paola Fields: Regan Hukfield
Bill Stevens: Corey Miles: Cassie Parther
Katie Feldman: Kim Poston
Shari Foster: Matt Friday
Cara Maatson: Cherie Pence

CHAIRPERSON: Chairperson - Leah Rodenberg

Class of 2018: Leah Rodenberg
Class of 2019: Carma Wiese
Class of 2020: Chris Frantz
Terry Van Dyke: Brandon Fairbanks
Jim Rwy: Bruce Taylor
Kim Knap: Carol Prehn

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL PROJECTS: Chairperson - Irma Pearson

Class of 2018: Mary Lee Parks
Class of 2019: Sara Mattson
Class of 2020: Sue Flater
Kate Goshon: Steve Lindell
Connie Joroch: Joan Padley
Kim Knap: Mary Taylor
Ira Pearson:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairperson - Pastor Mike Morgan

Class of 2018: John Collins
Class of 2019: Tammy Hukfield
Class of 2020: Gregg Fox
Ken Jolliffe: Kelly Buckely
Chris Hauser: Erin Musser
Brenda Lindell: Eddie Rose

STAFF PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: Chairperson - Chris Hauser

Class of 2018: John Collins
Class of 2019: Tammy Hukfield
Class of 2020: Gregg Fox
Ken Jolliffe: Kelly Buckely
Chris Hauser: Erin Musser
Brenda Lindell: Eddie Rose

TRUSTEES: Chairperson - Diane Bys

Class of 2018: Diane Bys
Class of 2019: Eric Dalton
Class of 2020: Jaime Steward
Lee Coppel: Dustin Kern
Connie Miller: Jason Schlapm
Tim Michels: Guy Trimble
Lauree Morton

FLY Chairperson - Simon Campbell

Amy Keating: Joan Padley
Denise Hulman: Melissa Walker
Donna Wolmut: Jill Hansen
Sue Flater: Susan Knight

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Chairperson - Chuck Alexander

Chair Alexander: Mike Morgan
Dan Cudworth: Gene Gerber
Amir Pegth: Chad Schower
Tom Padley: Matt Wildman
Brenna Hoftling: Linda Peyton
Connie Miller: Sean Poston

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is a powerful way of caring for each other in our Marion Methodist family. There are several avenues open to everyone – the prayer cards on Sunday morning and the prayer wall which is available 24/7, are two that are used most often. You can have a more active part in entering into prayer for each other. Check out the prayer wall frequently as prayers are submitted there often. Each time you visit, and pray for one of the requests found there, click the “I Prayed For This” tab; more prayers are always better.

Prayers for a blessed new year and for the ministry and mission opportunities that God has in store for us in this church and community in 2018.
What’s Next?

A Place to Learn at Marion Methodist

We are excited to share with our family at Marion Methodist that the education team has chosen and purchased furniture to be used in our education rooms for our new facility on REC Drive. One classroom set has been purchased at this time to allow us to have time to use and evaluate the efficiency and feasibility of our new furniture. The new furniture is being rotated through the adult ministry rooms to give many study groups the opportunity to try out the furniture and provide feedback.

As we continue to move forward with this exciting building project, we will be transparent and share ongoing progress and details of our new building. We are very interested in hearing your positive feedback and opportunities for continued input.

Construction Update - Day 173

Continued Progress!

The weather continues to be excellent for our building project. The sanctuary roof system is complete and keeping the inside dry. Temporary heaters are keeping the inside warm. Windows have been installed in the education rooms and the concrete floor is being poured. The footings for the spire are in place and awaiting the pre-cast panels to be installed. Pipes and conduit are being placed in the sanctuary for lighting and sound equipment.

Construction update meetings are continuing every Friday to coordinate all the different teams working on the project. These meetings are full of details and every detail has a purpose.

Clockwise from upper left
stairs leading up to the sanctuary platform
footings for the spire
conduits waiting to be shaped and placed into the floor
sunrise looking East out our new door
curved sanctuary platform wall

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

What will our New Sanctuary look like?

The Building Committee invites you to a forum at which they will share with you the design and colors of the sanctuary that is currently being built for us.

Two separate forums are planned, both to be held in the Chapel.

Sunday, January 7th 9:45 AM
Sunday, January 7th 11:00 AM

More questions? Come and see for yourself!!!

Church Office will be closed
Monday, January 1

Sarah Circle will not meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2018

TV Broadcast

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to: wildman@marionmethodist.org with newsletter in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/12</td>
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Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry

We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall or the Church Office.

January: Macaroni and Cheese
February: Canned Fruit
March: Peanut Butter
April: Macaroni and Cheese
May: Toilet Tissue
June: Soup

January 2018 Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Beyond Basic Bible ~ Room 104 ~ Wednesday at 6:30PM
Led by Chris Hauser ~ Beginning on January 3
Are you ready for the next step? This study is designed for those who have completed our Basic Bible and are ready for something more. The work of the Church is that of faithfully echoing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the saving grace of the whole world. Thirty Questions: A Short Catechism on the Christian Faith translates the historic faith of the Church into a basic training resource for both believers and those yet to believe. Here you will find the very core and essence of the Gospel set in the framework of short questions and thought provoking responses. This class is open to all and a wonderful destination for those traveling through the Engaging to Deepening portion of the Discipleship Pathway.

Disciple I Fast Track ~ Room 107 ~ Thursdays 6:30-7:45PM
Led by Mike Richmond and Judy Schnittjer ~ Begins January 4
Prepare yourself to be immersed into the Holy Bible. Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. This group meets for 12 weeks and will be focusing on the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes. This class is placed at the Deepening and Centered area of the Discipleship Pathway.

Precept Upon Precept: Revelation Part 4 ~ Room 105
Led by Tina Southard ~ Begins January 11 & 12
Thursdays 5:30—7:30PM or Fridays 9:30—11:30AM
Revelation Part 4 ~ Interpreting Revelation in the Light of Biblical Prophecy
Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels—realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days. Passages concerning biblical prophecy, especially from the Old Testament, are included in this final study of Revelation to complete your study of eschatology. This class is placed at the Deepening and Centered area of the Discipleship Pathway.

Register for classes online at www.MarionMethodist.org or by emailing Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org